

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Upcoming Events

Thus Spake The Master

Words Of The Wise

THINK!

Holi Celebrations

Rama Navami Celebrations

Reflections On Gururiji

CEEP's Day Out

CEEP's: The Legacy Continues

Mahashivaratri at Redlands

CMLA Website

CM West Website

CORP

CMLA Audio Gallery

e-Satsangs

Chinmaya Channel

Lectures Archive

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Upcoming Events

CORP Event: Get, Set, Go <i>Redefine Yourself For The Next Career Break</i>	Apr 5	9:00 am - 10:00 pm 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm
Valmiki Ramayana by Swami Ishwarananda	Apr 6-10	6:30 am - 7:30 am 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
CORP Event: Business Valuation	Apr 11	9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Kalanjali Event: Vasant Makarand	Apr 12	6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
CHYK Class: Break the Bondage by Swami Ishwarananda	Apr 15	7:30 pm - 8:30 pm
India Fest <i>Celebration of Regional New Year</i>	Apr 18	5:00 pm - 8:00 pm
On A Quest a biopic on Pujya Gurudev <i>Details available on website</i>	Apr 19 Apr 26	10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Bhagavad Gita Chanting International Competition (Chapter 15): CMLA Prelims <i>Details available on website</i>	April 25	
Bhagavad Gita Discourse Series by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Fundamentals of Vedanta Lectures by Acharya Mahadevan	Every Sunday	9:00 am - 10:15 am 12:00 pm - 1:15 pm
Yoga Classes	Every Thursday	7:00 pm - 8:30 pm
Guided Vedic Chanting by Swami Ishwarananda	Every Saturday	6:30 am - 7:30 am
Save the Date Memorial Day CHYK Retreat In The Woods Of Contemplation	May 22-25	
Save the Date Pujya Gururiji Swami Tejomayanandaji's Gita Inana Yagna: Chapter 4	Jun 28-Jul 4	
Announcing CMLA Annual Yatra 2015 Shatijotilinga Darshanam	Dec 1-10	

Thus Spake The Master

A sense of humor lends you poise, it gives you balance and it helps you to bend without breaking.

- Swami Chinmayananda

Words Of The Wise

The secret of enjoying life is to understand that joy lies in the very performance of the action. Action is always in the present and so too is happiness. In other words, the happiness and joy we seek, lies in our own hands.

- Swami Tejomayananda

THINK!

Musing in Rain

*Anxiously searching for his beloved Sita
Sri Rama pondered deep, says Tulsidas
"Mother Nature reflects nature of human"
Explained Sri Rama on the rainy season
Peacocks dance at the sight of a rainy cloud
Wise delight to see a devotee of the Lord
Lightening amidst the rainy dark clouds overcast
Friendship of the wicked does not ever last
Pouring clouds coming down in a hurry to earth
Even learned sloop beneath the men of wealth
Battering showers tolerated by mighty mountains
Taunts of the wicked put up by the holy saints
Swelling streamlets rushing in great speed
Wicked men rushing for wealth in greed
Rain water muddled soon after reaching earth
Soul is caught in illusion soon after its birth...*

- Swami Ishwarananda

for e-Satsang blog, click [here](#)

[TOP](#)

Massive and Colorful Participation at Holi

A youth and the Adults Park in Fountain Valley on the morning of Mar.8 was awash in the color yellow, with section of miles clad in t-shirts that announced that they were participants in the annual walkathon that raises money for the Chinmaya Organization for Rural Development. The event was part of the holi event organized by CMLA which saw a turnout of over a thousand people.

CMLA' Swami Ishwarananda led the group of walkers for the first five miles. The walking path wound around other activities including stations for kids with activities, ayurveda and a sampling of ayurvedic teas while the green space had colorful yoga mats with bodies bending to Surya Namaskar.



Meanwhile across the walkathon site, crowds swelled. Volunteers served a healthy and hearty lunch for all. The meal took care of the tastes of both the young and the more traditional flavors of the adults present.

As people lunched in the glorious weather, volunteers scurried around giving out CMLA logo t-shirts. At the designated hour there was a mad rush, handled ably by volunteers toward the tables where the colors were being distributed.

Swami Ishwarananda along with Acharya Mahadevanji began the color fest with a loud "Holi Hai" chant and released a fistful of powder to make the air colorful. In no time the air burst into a riot of colors with hundreds of people running around squealing in delight at being caught by a friend who they barely recognized.



In Southern California, CMLA is headquartered at Tustin. This event brought in a large number of its members and friends as well as from the far flung satellite centers of Brea, South Bay, San Gabriel Valley, Northridge, among others.

The crowd started to recede by mid afternoon. Hard working volunteer teams continued to make the event memorable - distributing water, making packets of food to go and serving desi chai. Another set of volunteers meanwhile went about cleaning up: the park was left in the same pristine state it had been in when the event began in the morning.

FOR THE RECORD



Colors of Joy

[TOP](#)

Grand Rama Navami Celebrations Held at Rameshwaram

To begin in Rama Navami, the tradition of the "Nav Din Parayan" of Goswami Tulsidasji's Ramayana which was begun eight years ago by Swami Ishwarananda at CMLA, continued this year with great devotion from March 19 - 27. Each morning, chanters gathered and led by Swamiji, joyously chanted the immortal words of the great saint-poet, in praise of Lord Rama.



Devotees who streamed through the temple were witness to the painstaking decorations of the altar of the Rama Parivaar which was coordinated to reflect the chaupais that were being chanted. Led by Sundari Velu, the team of volunteers had the exiled lord set in a forest backdrop, Hanumanji held a vadamalala, Devi Sita wore a beautiful veil for the wedding to her lord and the pattabishekam was an explosion of red rose petals and garlands. The final day concluded with an Annakoot and samashti bhiksha.

On March 28, on the auspicious day of Rama Navami the morning began with Rama puja followed by Vishnu Sahasranama chanting by all and led by Swamiji and Acharya Mahadevanji. Melodious bhajans were sung by four young balavihar youth lifting the audience's mood to pure elation. The event concluded with some soul pleasing bhajans by the Swarnajali group who kept the devotion engaged till the very end.

The Rama Navami celebrations were marked by several other events through the week.

The annual Rama Navami essay contest brought forth fresh ideas from the children of CMLA, this year. The children showcased their writing talent by sharing their perspectives on various topics. Grades 9-10 wrote about the 'Influence of Hindu Religion in Hindu Culture'; 'Hanuman, the true Servant of Lord Rama' was delineated upon by participants from the 7th and 8th grades while the younger ones from grades 5 and 6 wrote with love about 'The value I like most in Sri Rama'. This year, the judges for the contest were two Yuva Kendra students who were praised by the adult volunteers for doing their job in a timely and objective manner. There was also an art contest where young Balavihar students happily let their imagination go with colors and bold lines.



The Rama Navami cultural event, a day-long affair has come to be appreciated by both participants and parents of the Balavihar children whose training in music, dance, shloka chanting and theater gets to be showcased on stage. The performers were sincere and their talent shown through. Every participant was given a specially designed t-shirt with information on the upcoming visit by Pujya Gururiji Swami Tejomayanandaji to CMLA from June 28 - July 4.



The 10-day long celebrations, seemed to have touched just about everyone - through prayer, music or seva.

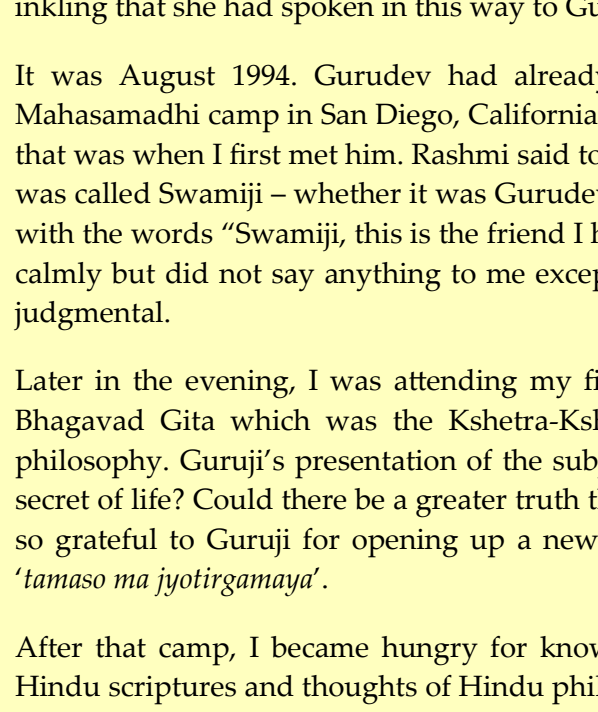
[TOP](#)

Reflections On Gururiji



Pujya Gururiji Swami Tejomayananda will visit Chinmaya Rameshwaram from June 28-July 4, this year. As CMLA readies in excitement to welcome him and eagerly wait to hear him speak on "Foster your Freedom" based on the Bhagavad Gita, Patrika brings to you the reflections of a few members who have had the blessed opportunity to have spent time in his presence and to have learned at his feet.

Nageswari Krishnareddy



because she is a distraction to my sadhana". Gururiji said "Why do you want to cut off with a friend? She will come into the fold when she is ready." So our friendship... Rashmi's and mine, continued (though I had no inkling that she had spoken in this way to Gururiji).

It was August 1994. Gurudev had already passed away the year before, and we were having the first Mahasamadhi camp in San Diego, California. Gururiji had taken over as the Head of the Mission worldwide, and that was when I first met him. Rashmi said to me "Nagesh, I want you to meet Swamiji" (in those days everyone was called Swamiji - whether it was Gurudev or Gururiji). She took me to his *Kutiya* and introduced me to Gururiji with the words "Swamiji, this is the friend I had told you about who is a non-believer". Gururiji just looked at me calmly but did not say anything to me except to acknowledge my *pranams*. His look was so friendly and non-judgmental.

Later in the evening, I was attending my first ever spiritual discourse. Gururiji was taking Chapter 13 of the Bhagavad Gita which was the Kshetra-Kshetrasya Vibhaga Yoga. This was my first exposure to Advaita philosophy. Gururiji's presentation of the subject was so lucid, so effective, that it was awe struck! So this is the secret of life? Could there be a greater truth than this? I fell in love with Hinduism at that very moment, and felt so grateful to Gururiji for opening up a new world of knowledge to me. I finally understood the meaning of 'tamasa ma jyotirgamaya'.

After that camp, I became hungry for knowledge and any free time found me hogging up books based on Hindu scriptures and thoughts of Hindu philosophers. Personally, I was going through a rough patch in my life then, and through this *sadhana*, I understood how important it was to keep a positive attitude through all the vicissitudes of life. It was Gururiji who started me off on this journey, not only to find true meaning in life but to make my life more meaningful.

In every meeting I have had with him since, Gururiji's humility, wisdom, love and efficiency, made a deep impression on me and he became my inspiration. He is the very personification of *satsang* to me and I can never be grateful enough to God for the gift of Gururiji.

Madhu and Subhash Sharma



each morning at 4 am. I can still visualize Gururiji sitting at his table working. I would put down the milk and he would instruct me to pour it for him. Each morning, I eagerly waited for Gururiji's smile - I considered it his blessing. There was no conversation just the beauty of silent love that overflowed in my heart for him.

Our sons Shiva and Maneesh met him when we offered bhiksha to him in the camp. He cheerfully talked to them about their school and hobbies. The simplicity and genuine affection and love made us feel very close to Gururiji after the very first encounter.

Over the years we have had close contact with him and he has shown us through personal example that whether it is work or someone else's personal matter, a small or big thing, we should deal with it all in the same way but leave ourselves unattached. He is: *nirguna sakar param brahman*. Gururiji has told me repeatedly that other than being in study groups, visiting temples and being in the company of spiritual aspirants, as a sadhak I should concentrate on my sadhana, by myself.

Gururiji has a great sense of humor. He has joked fun at me gently for my cooking, he has shown me how to make some dishes and made tea for the whole family. The Chinmaya Dham Yatra 2009 was the best spiritual journey we have ever made, where we spent three weeks travelling with him in India to all the centers established by Pujya Gurudev. His knowledge, his love for the Lord, surrender to his Guru and his practical way of thinking were things we were so mesmerized by. It is amazing how as the head of Chinmaya Mission he is at once childlike innocence and yet as a spiritual master he is nothing but a pure saint.

[TOP](#)

CEEP's Tots Enjoy An Educational Day Out On A Farm



The little ones from CEEP (Chinmaya Early Education Program) got a taste of life on a farm when they went on a field trip to Tanaka Farms. The children took a tour of the farm and got to ride on a wagon. Best of all, they sample vegetables directly from the field. The 16 pre-schoolers walked amidst strawberry fields and squealed with delight as they sampled the fruit, ruffled off the vine. The field trip was done to bring alive the curriculum subject, "Where does our food come from?" The farm offered a unique experience and education for the children.

[TOP](#)

Strains of Sitar and Sarangi Enthrall Music Lovers

Kalanjali, the cultural arm of CMLA on March 29, in coordination with the Ravi Shankar Foundation presented a concert titled 'The Legacy Continues' by the young sarod and sitar players Lakshya Mohan Gupta and Aayush Mohan Gupta accompanied by Arup Chattopadhyay on tabla.

Over 200 music lovers enjoyed the two and half hour concert that was held in Rameshwaram's auditorium. The artists too expressed their appreciation of the ambience.

Well recognized musician Arun David was present at the concert and spoke praising the artists and the organization of the event.

[TOP](#)

Redlands BV Marks Mahashivaratri

At the Redlands balavihar, Mahashivaratri was celebrated with love and devotion. On a makeshift altar, little children participated in offering abhishekam and eagerly sang bhajans in praise of the lord.

[TOP](#)